

REPORT / RECOMMENDATION



To: Edina Transportation Commission

Agenda Item #: VII. A.

From: Mark K. Nolan, AICP, Transportation Planner

Action ☐

Date: February 19, 2015

Discussion ☐

Subject: Correspondence

Information ☒

Action Requested:

No action is necessary.

Attachments:

Attached is correspondence received since the last ETC meeting.

Mark K. Nolan

Subject: FW: EEC Living Streets Recommendation for Transportation Commission

From: Dianne Latham [<mailto:Dianne@LathamPark.net>]

Sent: Friday, January 16, 2015 11:32 PM

To: Ross Bintner

Cc: John Heer; Keith Kostuch

Subject: EEC Living Streets Recommendation for Transportation Commission

1-16-15

Ross,

Please forward the following to the Transportation Commission Liaison, Mark Nolan, the Transportation Commission Chair, Katherine Bass, as well as to Jennifer Janovy, a Transportation Commission member of the Living Streets Task Force, so that it may be placed in the Transportation Commission packet for their information. Below you will find excerpts from the Urban Forest Task Force Report related to EEC's recommendations regarding Living Streets. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Excerpt of EEC's Urban Forest Task Force Report Relevant to Living Streets

The Urban Forest Task Force (UFTF) was established by the Edina Energy and Environment Commission at the February 17, 2010 meeting. It consisted of Chair Dianne Plunkett Latham (EEC), Joseph Hulbert (Park Board), Michael Schroeder (Planning Commission), Staff - Tom Horwath (City of Edina Forester). Attending meetings related to City Planning code was staff Carry Teague (Planning Director) as well. The Urban Forest Task Force met eleven times between 3-18-10 and 4-02-13. The EEC approved the Urban Forest Task Force Report and it was placed on the 6-18-13 Council/EEC Work Session agenda. Council approved the report to move forward to the relevant commissions for their consideration – Park Board, Planning and Transportation.

The portion of the UFTF relevant to the Transportation Commission was that of the UFTF's objective to make recommendations for trees in Living Streets initiatives. EEC therefore considered the Living Streets objectives with respect to trees as listed on p. 29 of 2-11-13 Living Streets draft:

- a. Develop a comprehensive tree ordinance for the preservation and addition of boulevard trees
- b. Define standards for preserving and/or adding boulevard trees to all street reconstruction projects

EEC's Proposed Standards:

- a. All street reconstruction plans will include adding 1.5" to 2" DBH overstory trees along the boulevard such that at maturity their drip lines will nearly touch, except in such areas where rain gardens or driveways are anticipated. Minnesota native overstory trees are preferred. Survival rates are the best for trees within the 1.5" to 2" DBH range.
- b. Funding for the trees will be part of the cost of street reconstruction projects. This will include planting and mulch as well as a watering contract for the first year. Thereafter residents will be responsible for watering and pruning the trees.
- c. The homeowner on whose property the trees are to be planted will have the opportunity to select the species of trees to be planted on their property from a list of tree species approved by the City. Selections will be made on a first come, first served basis for each project so that no more than 50% of the trees in any street reconstruction project will be of any given species. The City will make the selection for any resident not declaring their selection by the required date. Residents will be asked to list their first, second and third choices.

Dianne Plunkett Latham

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